

Remarks

Claims 1-34 were pending.

Claims 1-3 and 5-16 have been canceled.

Claim 4 has been amended.

The Restriction Requirement In The Parent Application S/N 09/512,895:

The examiner required restriction in the parent application, S/N 09/512,895, to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claim 1.
- II. Claims 3 and 16.
- III. Claim 4.
- IV. Claims 2, 5, and 15.
- V. Claims 6, 13, and 14.
- VI. Claim 8.
- VII. Claim 10.
- VIII. Claim 9.
- IX. Claim 11.
- X. Claim 7.
- XI. Claim 12.

In response to the restriction requirement, in the parent application, S/N 09/512,895, the Applicant elected the invention of Group I - claim 1.

As a result, the non-elected inventions of group II - claims 3 and 16; group III - claim 4; group IV - claims 2, 5, and 15; group V - claims 6, 13, and 14; group VI - claim 8; group VII - claim 10; group VIII - claim 9; group IX - claim 11; group X - claim 7; and group XI - claim 12 were canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, to be pursued in corresponding divisional applications.

Claims 4 and 17- 34 of The Present Application:

The present application is a division of the parent application, serial number 09/512,895. Claims 4 and 17- 34 of the present application are generally directed to the invention of Group III.

Unless stated otherwise, none of the amendments to the present application were made for reasons substantially related to the statutory requirements for patentability.

Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No.08-1394 of Haynes and Boone, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 20, 2002

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Amended Claims

4. (Amended) An apparatus for coupling two elements, comprising:
- an outer tubular [support] member [including] defining one or more [support] outer tubular member slots;
 - an inner tubular member [including] defining one or more inner tubular member slots positioned within the outer tubular member; and
 - a coupling assembly for [removably] releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the [support] inner tubular member, [including] comprising:
 - a tubular coupling body movably coupled to the [support] inner tubular member;
 - one or more coupling arms extending from the tubular coupling body; and
 - coupling elements extending from corresponding coupling arms adapted to mate with corresponding [support] outer tubular member and inner tubular member slots.